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Norman Cross  
Rural District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the  
Sanitary Condition of the District  
During the year 1957.



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## To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

---

Chairman: Venerable A. ROYLE

Miss E. E. BROWN

H. WILLIAMS (*Chairman of the Council*)

T. R. OSWIN

T. E. R. PARSONS

C. SMITH

H. M. T. JONES

## STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health..... F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector ..... H. E. REEVE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health

Inspector..... A. E. BENNETT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1957) .....	8740
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1957 .....	2628
Rateable Value, 31/12/57 .....	£74,913
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1957 .....	£298

The general health of the District continues to be satisfactory.

The estimated mid-year population shows a very slight increase due principally to the development of private housing estates in the Orton area.

The death rate is a little above that for England and Wales for the first time since 1950, but the difference is not considered significant. The infant mortality rate at 7.4, and running below that of the national average for four out of the past five years, even though based on small numbers, is a matter for satisfaction to all concerned. The birth rate continues its recent trend, and is below that of the national average.

Undoubtedly the most important task still confronting the Council is the provision of more houses both for general needs and more especially for slum clearance. In this District, slum clearance is a relatively large task, with far too high a proportion of the population living in houses which are unsatisfactory. New legislation will be of great assistance in preventing a number of houses on the border-line from falling into the Grade 5 category as it affords some incentive to property owners to carry out repairs. The hutted camp at Sibson is now in a very bad state of repair and during the year was represented to the Council as suitable to be dealt with under clearance area procedure.

In the matter of sewerage and water supply, the example of the Council is a model for other Rural Districts to follow. Pressure difficulties in Yaxley parish still continue to be serious and will be so until the Council's Joint Scheme is initiated. This scheme has been held up by circumstances outside the Council's control.

Refuse collection might well be improved by a more frequent collection especially in the larger parishes, and by a more systematic tipping procedure even though this has been improved during the year.

More attention was given to food hygiene during the year, but more routine work could still be done with advantage.

Reference last year to the nuisance caused by fumes from brickyard chimneys has led to our attention being drawn to the serious effects produced in cattle grazing on contaminated pasture in the vicinity. Further research into the problem of the elimination of obnoxious gases may provide the ultimate solution.

In concluding this my final Report, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council, their officers and staff both past and present for all their help and kindness to me during the past eight years.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

### LIVE BIRTHS

Birth Rate per 1000 population .... 15.6

### STILL BIRTHS

Rate per 1000 total births ..... 14.5

### DEATHS

Death rate per 1000 population ..... 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes  
per 1000 total (live and still) births ..... 7.2

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ..... 7.4

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..... 7.6

Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ ..... Nil

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Actual Number of Deaths	3	1	3	3	2	1
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	22.4	7.2	28.3	21.7	17.2	7.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..... 23

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..... Nil

### RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Births	Crude Death Rate	Index Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Norman Cross R.D.C.	15.6	11.6	14.0	7.4	14.5
England & Wales	16.1	11.5	11.5	23.0	22.4

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):-

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	57	44	101
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases .....	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	—	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	2	1	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .....	10	5	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	1	1	2
16. Diabetes .....	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	8	8	16
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	8	3	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	—	1
20. Other heart disease .....	5	5	10
21. Other circulatory disease .....	1	2	3
22. Influenza .....	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis .....	6	—	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .....	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea .....	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis .....	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations .....	—	—	—
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases .....	2	8	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	4	1	5
34. All other accidents .....	2	—	2
35. Suicide .....	1	1	2
36. Homicide & operations of war .....	1	—	1



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **(a) Laboratory Facilities :**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

### **(b) Ambulance Facilities :**

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

### **(c) Nursing in the Home :**

Nursing in the district is carried on by two qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and it is understood that a report, which might well be made available to the District M.O.H. as a routine practice, is completed with details of home conditions and circumstances.

### **(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council, the Welfare Clinic being held at London Road, Old Fletton, every week on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

### **YAXLEY..**

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Stretton Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4 p.m.

### **ELTON**

The Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Highgate Hall on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2-30—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided .—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Stretton Hall, Yaxley Every 4th Friday 10—12.
Eyes	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	1, Thorpe Road, Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
Orthopaedic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough. 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30— 7 p.m. Friday 10.30—12 noon. Men Only—Monday 5.30—7 p.m. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals :**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Peterborough.
- (2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Office,

18, Priestgate,

Peterborough.

22nd May, 1958.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

**HOUSING.** The number of new dwellings built since 1945 is as follows:—

(a) By the District Council—

Up to 31.12.1955.		During 1956.		During 1957.	
Alwalton	4	Yaxley	48	Yaxley	6
Chesterton	2				
Elton	18				
Farcet	44				
Folksworth	2				
Glatton	4				
Holme	8				
Morborne	4				
Orton Longueville	6				
Orton Waterville	10				
Stibbington	2				
Stilton	28				
Yaxley	34				
	— —		—		—
	166		48		6 — 220

**Temporary dwellings adapted and in use :—**

Holmewood	11	Sibson Camp	15	—	26
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**Plans approved or in preparation :—**

Yaxley Broadway	—	96 Houses, Flats and Bungalows.
Holmewood	—	8 Houses and 4 Bungalows.

(b) **By Private Developers :—**The number of dwellings completed since January 1947 is as follows :—

1947	—	9 Houses and 2 Bungalows	—	11
1948	—	7 Houses and 6 Bungalows	—	13
1949	—	7 Houses	—	7
1950	—	4 Houses	—	4
1951	—	4 Houses	—	4
1952	—	2 Houses and 3 Bungalows	—	5
1953	—	20 Houses and 6 Bungalows	—	26
1954	—	20 Houses and 26 Bungalows	—	46
1955	—	24 Houses and 26 Bungalows	—	50
1956	—	29 Houses and 31 Bungalows	—	60
Total Dwellings				— 226

**Completed during 1957 :—**

Elton	.....	2 Bungalows	—	2
Farcet	.....	2 Bungalows	—	2
Folksworth	.....	2 Houses and 2 Bungalows	—	4
Holme	.....	4 Houses	—	4
Orton Longueville		7 Houses and 22 Bungalows	—	29
Orton Waterville		1 House	—	1
Sibson-cum-Stibbington		1 Bungalow	—	1
Yaxley	.....	2 Houses and 3 Bungalows	—	5
Total for 1957	—	16 Houses and 32 Bungalows	—	48

**Total of Private Dwellings since 1947 :—**

148 Houses and 126 Bungalows	—	—	—	274
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Private Dwellings under construction at 31st December, 1957 :—

11 Houses and 12 Bungalows	—	—	—	23
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**Private Enterprise Housing** did not continue to increase as in previous years; this was due to the steadily increasing difficulty in obtaining loans and the fact that an estate of 80 Houses at Orton Longueville was almost completed. There is, however, steady development of individual plots and if there are no further financial restrictions reasonable progress should continue. Sewering of further Parishes would enable a more balanced development throughout the area.

**The Council Building programme** made slow progress during the year. The 6 remaining houses in the first stage of 54 houses on the Yaxley Broadway Estate were completed; road base, water mains and soil and surface water sewers were laid on the Northern part of this estate, ready for the erection of a further 96 Dwellings. The two large plots at the front of the estate (reserved for shops) have not been sold, and it may be necessary to give further consideration to these sites.



There were several delays in connection with the soil and surface water drainage on the Holmewood Estate, but erection of twelve dwellings should commence in 1958.

Consideration was given to a programme for building for the next five years, and negotiations have commenced for sites in Farcet, Stilton and Elton.

A Public Inquiry was held on 5th February, 1957 into the Yaxley No. 1 Clearance Order, and confirmed on 10th April, 1957. Further Clearance Areas can be prepared in other Parishes as soon as new houses are available. In the meantime Individual Demolition Orders and Closing Orders are being made as the opportunity arises, 9 being made during 1957. Agreement has been reached with the Agents for the Crown Estate Commissioners that any unfit houses becoming vacant in Holme will not be re-let; a similar agreement will soon be made with the Elton Estates Company.

Work commenced on the improvement of the 50—1919 Type Council Houses. A bath, lavatory basin, W.C., hot water system and drainage is being provided. A similar scheme at the 14 Stibbington houses and the 17—1937 Type Council Houses would be a considerable improvement.

The Yaxley Industrial Hostel, which at one time housed 350—400 men, was taken over by The London Brick Co., but closed during the year.

The Council still manage two hutted Sites at Sibson used for temporary housing, and the Airfield Site (managed by the Agricultural Commissioners) is also still in use. The remaining occupants of these huts require housing at an early date.

12 Improvement Grant Applications were received during the year.

**Water Supply.** During the year 97 Domestic, 61 metered and 34 Building supplies were connected. There were 42 burst mains and 47 burst services. Water consumption was 42,581,000 gallons on metered supplies and 49,332,000 gallons on domestic, a total of 91,913,000. The domestic consumption was 16.55 gallons per head per day.

Water Contract No. 8, for 18 miles of main in Fen and out-lying areas was almost completed.

There were again many complaints as to the low pressure on Yaxley Broadway and efforts are being made to expedite the joint scheme of main laying and pressure improvement.

The roof of Orton Longueville Booster Station was reconstructed.



Discussions with other local authorities were commenced, as a result of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 52/56, in which the Minister asked water undertakers to re-group into larger areas.

**Drainage.** By the end of 1957 drains from 747 properties had been connected to the public sewers in Yaxley, Farcet, Stilton, Orton Longueville and Orton Waterville. The work of disconnecting drains from old street sewers and re-connecting to the new soil sewers was commenced.

The Council instructed the Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for sewerage the villages of Elton, Holme and Sibson-cum-Stibbington. Further schemes of this nature would abate nuisances, aid development and help in the gradual improvement of housing conditions.

Work commenced on laying a 7" sewer at Orton Waterville and Orton Longueville, to serve three new schools and two proposed housing estates.

**Refuse Collection.** Loads continue to increase in weight, and in an endeavour to offset this factor a larger vehicle was ordered in July as a result of a satisfactory trial. When in use this vehicle will reduce the number of runs to tip.

A new market has been found for waste paper, the merchant collecting every fortnight. This improvement has resulted in a 75% increase in the amount of waste paper sold; unfortunately the price has not increased.

Orton and Yaxley tips have been fenced.

**Food Inspection.** The slaughterhouse at Farcet continues to be used, and there has been 100% inspection of all killings during the year.

More inspections were made of food premises this year, but there is still much work to be done. Several of the smaller bake-houses have closed, and although this is unfortunate there is no doubt that by today's standards some were difficult to operate in a hygienic manner for one reason or another.

## Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

From 1st April, 1957 to 31st December, 1957	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	226	—	1	784	765	—
Number inspected	226	—	1	784	765	—

### All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	Nil	—	Nil	2	Nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	—	1	14	15	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	11.89	—	100	1.78	1.96	—

### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	—	Nil	Nil	32	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.63	—	Nil	Nil	4.18	—

### Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	—	—	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	—	—	Nil	Nil	—
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	—	—	Nil	Nil	—

**Miscellaneous.** The Clean Air Act, 1956, was received during the year; sections of this Act come into force later, and should help in the control of atmospheric pollution.

The Rent Act 1957 and accompanying Regulations came into force during the year; one of the most important sections of this Act enables rent increases to be made provided the property is in good repair.

Byelaws under the Water Act were confirmed, for prevention of damage by frost.

Plans and applications received during the year were as follows .

New Houses	.....	47	Pigsties	.....	1
Bungalows	.....	66	Schools	.....	Nil
Garden, Tool & Store Shed		17	Conversions to dwellings		10
Agricultural Buildings	.....	8	Electricity Lines	.....	16
Garages	.....	61	Greenhouses & Conservatories		5
Outline Applications	.....	28	Shops	.....	Nil
Notices and Signs	.....	5	Caravan Applications	.....	8
New Accesses	.....	4	Miscellaneous	.....	20
Alterations and additions		40	Temporary Dwellings	.....	Nil
Individual Caravan Licences in force — 18					

**Visits** made by Public Health Inspectors were as follows :—

New Buildings	.....	303	Housing and Public		
Sewers and Drains	.....	742	Health Acts	.....	359
Rodents	.....	33	Caravans	.....	28
Refuse Disposal	.....	76	Civil Defence	.....	29
Water Supply	.....	174	Committees, etc.	.....	48
Council House	.....	499	Vermin	.....	8
Infectious Disease	.....	8	Interviews	.....	1,886
Meat and Food	.....	158	Miscellaneous	.....	182
Factories Act	.....	14			

In conclusion may I thank the Council and my colleagues for their help during another busy year.

H. ERIC REEVE,  
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1957.

[illegible]



Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —25 .....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 —35 .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 —45 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 —55 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 —65 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.





